

Message

From: Mutter, Andrew [mutter.andrew@epa.gov]
Sent: 12/10/2018 5:47:25 PM
To: Bohan, Suzanne [bohan.suzanne@epa.gov]; Smidinger, Betsy [Smidinger.Betsy@epa.gov]; Stavnes, Sandra [Stavnes.Sandra@epa.gov]; Hestmark, Martin [Hestmark.Martin@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Butte/Anaconda prebrief materials for Doug's review, due to OCIR on the 13th.

This will be used as part of the acting Administrator's confirmation prep material.

Best regards,

Andrew

Andrew Mutter

Director, Office of Communication and Public Involvement
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8 (Denver, CO)

Office: 303.312.6448
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Twitter: [@EPARegion8](#)
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Webpage: EPA Region 8 (Mountains and Plains)

From: Bohan, Suzanne
Sent: Monday, December 10, 2018 10:38 AM
To: Mutter, Andrew <mutter.andrew@epa.gov>; Smidinger, Betsy <Smidinger.Betsy@epa.gov>; Stavnes, Sandra <Stavnes.Sandra@epa.gov>; Hestmark, Martin <Hestmark.Martin@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Butte/Anaconda prebrief materials for Doug's review, due to OCIR on the 13th.

The write-up looks good to me. What is this for?

From: Mutter, Andrew
Sent: Monday, December 10, 2018 9:22 AM
To: Smidinger, Betsy <Smidinger.Betsy@epa.gov>; Stavnes, Sandra <Stavnes.Sandra@epa.gov>; Hestmark, Martin <Hestmark.Martin@epa.gov>; Bohan, Suzanne <bohan.suzanne@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Butte/Anaconda prebrief materials for Doug's review, due to OCIR on the 13th.

Thx. We'll stand by for any additional comments.

Best regards,

Andrew

Andrew Mutter

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From: Smidinger, Betsy

Sent: Monday, December 10, 2018 8:45 AM

To: Mutter, Andrew <mutter.andrew@epa.gov>; Stavnes, Sandra <Stavnes.Sandra@epa.gov>; Hestmark, Martin <Hestmark.Martin@epa.gov>; Bohan, Suzanne <bohan.suzanne@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Butte/Anaconda prebrief materials for Doug's review, due to OCIR on the 13th.

Hi Andrew – I had a correction below and an addition. Also including Martin and Suzanne to make sure they don't have any other edits.

From: Mutter, Andrew

Sent: Monday, December 10, 2018 8:20 AM

To: Smidinger, Betsy <Smidinger.Betsy@epa.gov>; Stavnes, Sandra <Stavnes.Sandra@epa.gov>

Subject: FW: Butte/Anaconda prebrief materials for Doug's review, due to OCIR on the 13th.

Betsy,

I'd like to have this to Doug after SLT today. Have you reviewed?

Best regards,

Andrew

Andrew Mutter

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From: Ostendorf, Jody

Sent: Friday, December 7, 2018 3:00 PM

To: Mutter, Andrew <mutter.andrew@epa.gov>

Cc: Smidinger, Betsy <Smidinger.Betsy@epa.gov>; Stavnes, Sandra <Stavnes.Sandra@epa.gov>

Subject: Butte/Anaconda prebrief materials for Doug's review, due to OCIR on the 13th.

Andrew,

For Doug's review, this is due to Carolyn by noon MST on the 13th.

Background —

Silver Bow Creek Butte/Area Superfund site: In 1982, EPA proposed the Silver Bow Creek site to be added to the National Priority List and it was listed as a Superfund Site in 1983. The Butte Area was added to Silver Bow Creek site in 1987. The Silver Bow Creek/Butte Area site is in Butte, Montana and includes 26 miles of stream and streamside habitat. Since the late 1800s, mining wastes have been dumped into streams and wetlands near mining operations. These activities contaminated soil, groundwater and surface water with heavy metals. From 1988 to 2005, EPA completed several removal actions to clean up areas around former smelter sites, mine waste dumps, railroad beds, stream banks and channels, and residential yards to address immediate human health and environmental risks. EPA continues to work with the community, project stakeholders, and responsible parties to oversee the ongoing cleanup work.

Anaconda Smelter Superfund site: The 300-square-mile Anaconda Co. Smelter site is located at the southern end of the Deer Lodge Valley in Montana, at and near the location of the former Anaconda Copper Mining Company ore processing facilities. Operations at the Anaconda Smelter ceased in 1980 and the smelter facilities were dismantled soon thereafter. Over a century of milling and smelting operations, high concentrations of arsenic, lead, copper, cadmium, and zinc were produced. These wastes contaminated soil, groundwater and surface water with hazardous chemicals. In September 1983, EPA placed the Anaconda Co. Smelter site on the Superfund program's National Priorities List to address the contamination. EPA is the lead agency with Atlantic Richfield Co. conducting site activities through administrative orders. Cleanup is complete at several areas within the site. At these areas, operation and maintenance activities are ongoing. Cleanup is underway at the remaining areas. Remedies that have been completed are currently protective of human health and the environment. Where remedies are not complete, access is controlled to prevent human exposure to waste.

Key Points —

- Region 8 responded to the following Congressional inquiries:
 - Senator Daines sent a letter to then Administrator Pruitt in December 2017 urging him to include Butte and Anaconda on the Administrator's Superfund Emphasis List, which the EPA has done. ~~priority list~~.
 - Senator Tester sent a letter to Acting Administrator Wheeler in October 2018 requesting EPA's continued collaboration and work with ATSDR at the Butte and Anaconda Superfund sites. EPA is working closely with ATSDR on health studies in both communities.
- Senator Daines visited the Anaconda and Butte sites with Acting Administrator Wheeler on September 7, 2018.

Talking Points—

- EPA recognizes the importance to the communities of Anaconda and Butte, Montana, of getting consent decrees finalized in 2019 in order to complete remedy construction by 2024 (for Butte) and 2025 (for Anaconda) and begin the process of getting the sites deleted from the National Priorities List.
- EPA appreciates the efforts and involvement from elected representatives and the local communities to provide input into the process to help ensure that final remedies for Anaconda and Butte are protective and meet the interests of the local communities to the greatest extent possible.
- In the interest of risk evaluation and effective risk communication, EPA is actively engaged in public health studies in both communities along with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), the Montana Department of Health and Human Services, Butte-Silver Bow City-County Health Department, Anaconda Deer Lodge County Health Department, local health professionals, and community members.
- In Butte, EPA is working with Montana Resources and the Atlantic Richfield Company to implement a pilot project to begin pumping and treating water from the Berkeley Pit with discharge of treated water to Silver Bow Creek.
- EPA tested Anaconda schools for lead and arsenic to ensure that students and teachers are not exposed to contamination from historic smelter operation.
- ATSDR collected blood and urine samples from over 300 Anaconda community members, with analysis paid for by EPA, to conduct an exposure investigation and provide results to the community in 2019.

- EPA collected and is studying vegetables grown in Anaconda to ensure that residents growing their own food are not exposed to contaminants from historic mining.

Best,

Jody

Jody Ostendorf

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